



## **Kate Dargan** **California State Fire Marshal**



On March 26, 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger named Kate Dargan the new California State Fire Marshal. Chief Dargan is the 14th person to hold the position and the first woman since the office was established in 1923. She is a 30-year veteran with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

In 2005, she was appointed to the position of Assistant State Fire Marshal. Soon after that, she began filling in for State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva when he was named CAL FIRE Director.

Her line experience includes wildland and structural firefighting, air operations, and hazardous materials. She has worked closely in the Fire Prevention and Planning arena for several years. She served as a California Incident Management Team member during which she was Liaison Officer on the 2003 Cedar Fire. She has been a volunteer firefighter, a Training Officer, and an elected board member for a local fire district.

From 2002 to 2005, Chief Dargan served as the Napa County Fire Marshal. She was the Division Chief for Cooperative Fire Protection in 2001 and the CAL FIRE liaison to state agencies involved in disaster response including the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. She served as Battalion Chief for the CAL FIRE air attack base and conservation camp in Nevada County from 1997 to 2000. In that position, she founded the Nevada County Fire Safe Council.

Chief Dargan began her career as a firefighter in Santa Cruz County in 1977. She promoted to Fire Apparatus Engineer and then Captain in San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties from 1980 to 1994.

Among her current responsibilities she serves as co-chair of the Wildland-Urban Interface Committee and is an appointed member to the Napa County Watershed Board. She is a member of the California Fire Chiefs Association, National Fire Protection Association and the American Planning Association.

Her professional qualifications include a degree in Natural Resource Management from Cal Poly and experience in land use planning and environmental concerns. She is a frequent public speaker on fire prevention and fire safe planning and works to bring these concepts to public attention.

She lives in Napa, California with her husband Tom Berry who retired from CAL FIRE in 2005. They have three sons: Scott Berry and Chris Dargan, both in college, and Matt Dargan who is an Army medic.